

### REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending. No claims have been amended, canceled, or added in this response. Claims 1-32 therefore will be pending upon the filing of this response.

Claims 2-12 and 18-28 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the office action that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 13, 17, and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. patent no. 3,667,034 (Freeze) in view of U.S. patent no. 5,938,424 (Kurogi). Claims 14-16 and 30-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Freeze in view of Kurogi, and further in view of U.S. patent no. 6,369,582 (Coffeen). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 1 of the present application recites determining, via the knowledge-based system, a suggested course of action for the failure based on the test result and the knowledge base of transformer information. Independent claim 17 recites determining a suggested course of action for the failure based on the test result and the knowledge base of transformer information.

The Examiner contends at page 3, lines 3-7 of the office action that the following excerpts from Kurogi disclose determining, via a knowledge-based system, a suggested course of action for a failure based on a test result and a knowledge base of transformer information:

Accordingly, diagnosis data as to the *cause* of a particular failure can be obtained by driving the diagnosis knowledge base with reference to items of measurement data. The diagnosis data is quantitative, and directly represents the *cause* of the failure or includes suggestions as the true *cause* of the failure. Kurogi spec. at col. 2, lines 26-31 [emphasis added].

The apparatus of the invention for diagnosing failures in the combustion system automatically affords, based on measured data representing the behavior of the combustion system, quantitative diagnosis data which directly represents the *cause* of the failure, or includes suggestions as to the true *cause* of the failure, consequently enabling even inspectors of small experience to

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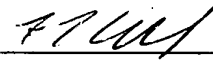
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readily identify the *cause*. *Id.* at col. 3, lines 33-39 [emphasis added].

Applicants respectfully submit that the above excerpts refer solely to diagnosing the cause of a combustion system failure. These excerpts, and the remainder of Kurogi, are silent regarding determining, via a knowledge-based system, a *suggested course of action* for a failure based on a test result and a knowledge base of transformer information. Freeze likewise is silent regarding this limitation, as acknowledged by the Examiner at page 2, line 22 thru page 3, line 2 of the office action. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1 and 17 are patentably distinct from the combination of Kurogi and Freeze. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 17 (and claims 13-16 and 29-32, which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

A notice of allowability is respectfully requested.

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